

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

Interagency Forestry Working Group (IFWG)

Near-Term Implementation Plan

Forest and Rangeland Resource Assessment

Working Group Overview: IFWG is responsible for 1) Advising the Board of Forestry on how the Forest Sector can achieve its Scoping Plan GHG target; 2) Coordinating related forest sector climate and energy activities, such as stakeholder input for biomass and biofuels programs; and 3) Developing and implementing adaptation actions to protect the state's forests.

Working Group Agencies: CAL FIRE, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, Natural Resources Agency, US Forest Service, DFG, CEC, CalEPA, DWR, and ARB

Measure / Strategy Implementation Plan: CA Forest and Rangeland Resource Assessment

- A. Description: Federal and state law require CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) to develop assessments of the condition and availability of CA's forest and rangeland resources and to recommend policy and program improvements, as needed, to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Board of Forestry (BOF), the CA Natural Resources Agency and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. FRAP is also responsible for fire hazard severity zone mapping. The 2010 Assessment expands upon the 2003 Assessment's climate change chapter to inform the CA Strategic Fire Plan, the Forest Strategy document, Board climate policy and Department climate change actions.
- B. Agencies involved: CAL FIRE is responsible for implementing this measure/strategy; however, CAL FIRE received comments or input at review workshops from state and federal agencies, including DFG, DWR, DPR, DOC, CEC, ARB and SWRCB, USFS, NRCS and NMFS, as well as from non-governmental stakeholders.
- C. Scoping Plan/Adaptation Plan Reference: This is strategy 1c in the Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- D. Metrics: Identification of priority landscapes where forest and range resources are at risk, and use of this information by the BOF, CAL FIRE and other entities; follow-up collaborative planning to conserve, protect and enhance resource assets at risk from potential threats; receipt of funds from Farm Bill to address resources at risk.
- E. Cross-cutting issues: In addition to the forestry and fire protection issues, the Assessment includes information from or of interest to the biodiversity, water, green infrastructure, urban forestry, energy and public health sectors. This information may be used by agencies and stakeholders to help identify and protect critical habitats, reserves and corridors at increasing climate risk to wildfire and diseases, or to develop incentives for private landowners in the larger matrix of biodiversity and habitat lands. It may also be used to consider how silvicultural practices and reforestation can improve forest health and foster regeneration in critical corridors and habitats. It can be used by working with DFG, DWR, SWRCB, DOC and stakeholder groups to protect water quality and supply by increasing forest resilience, reducing fire hazards in high risk watersheds, restoring riparian forests for floodways to capture earlier and higher peaked snowmelt and runoff. It can also be used by

communities and others such as DPH to help assess risk of wildfire to public safety and public health, such as the risk to increasing wildfire smoke impacts.

- F. Tasks and Deliverables: The draft assessment went out for public review in April 2010 and will be finalized by June 2010. Specific deliverables include: Data, description and maps of forest and range resources, assets and risks; maps that integrate risks and assets into priority landscapes at risk; and strategies for protecting, conserving or restoring forest and range resources.

<u>Deliverable</u>	Agencies	Deadline
Final online Assessment and Strategy documents	CAL FIRE	June 30
On-line data and references	CAL FIRE	June 30
Updated data and analysis	CAL FIRE	Ongoing